together with some amendments proposed to the Copyright Act, are adequate. A decision has also been taken to improve market access for motion pictures and videos. As far as the issue of patents is concerned, attention of the United States has been drawn to the fact that this is the subject of mutilateral negotiations, which have yet to be concluded.

On 26 February, 1992, the USTR announced the decision to terminate the investigation against India under Section 301.

Transfer of the Management of Tea Gardens running in West Bengal

1844. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a plan to transfer the management of four tea gardens being run by the Tea Trading Corporation of India in West Bengal to the State Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for such transfer; and

(c) whether Government are aware that a few tea gardens are being run by the West Bengal Government already, and all these tea gardens are in a bad shape?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In view of the losses suffered by Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI) on account of its garden operations, various alternatives for management of TTCI's gardens are under the consideration of Government.

(c) Government is aware that West Bengal Tea Development Corporation Ltd. is managing some gardens in West Bengal. As per provisional figures their gardens had incurred losses in 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91.

Functions of STC

1845. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what will be the function of the State Trading Corporation after the implementation of the New Economic and Trade Policy; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the STC has reduced the manpower during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) STC would continue to handle exports, imports and domestic trading operations on a competitive basis with due thrust in the non-canalised sector.

(b) 553 employees in STC have voluntarily retired under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme between the period 1.6.89 and 19.8.91.

Raunaq Singh Committee Report on Free Trade Port

1846. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Raunaq Singh Committee report on Free Trade Port has been submitted to Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that as reported Goa has been listed on the top for this Free Trade Port as it had enjoyed the same facility prior to liberation of Goa in 1961?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Detailed information is available in the Report of the Advisory Committee, copies of which have been placed in the Parliament Library.

Sino-Indian Trade

1847. SHRI JAGADISH JANI:
SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to export trade relations with China;

(b) if so, what are the new areas identified therefor; and

(c) what programme has been drawn up for the expansion of Sino-Indian trade during the coming year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) During the recent meeting of India-China Joint Group on Economic Cooperation, Trade, Science and Technology held in New Delhi on 12-13 December, 1991, the following areas of Economic cooperation were identified;

(i) To explore possibilities for establishment of joint ventures.

(ii) To explore possibility of bilateral co-operation in iron ore mining, railways communication, aviation, water conservancy, construction, iron and steel processing.

(iii) To participate in tenders for projects to be financed by World Bank, ADB or other international financial institutions in either country.

(iv) To explore the possibility of jointly participating in third country projects.

(v) To explore the possibility of export of consultancy services from India.

(vi) The item of export and import interest for each country were identified and included in the trade protocol for the calendar year 1992.

(vii) Also a memorandum for resumption of border trade with China was signed on 13.12.91.

Export Commitments of F.C.V. Tobacco

1848. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the export commitments of F.C.V. Tobacco, this year;

(b) what is the number of importers;

(c) whether the orders for export have been finalised;

(d) what is the unit value realisation to each exporting country;

(e) what are the corresponding figures of unit value realisation in case of other exporting countries;

(f) if so, what are the details thereof;

(g) whether the unit value realisation is less in one case;

(h) if so, what are the reasons thereof; and

(i) what steps have been taken by Government to raise the unit value realisation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Export of FCV tobacco so far in the current financial year, *i.e.* 1991-92 is in the order of 48,000 tons against the target of 53,000 tons.

(b) About 25 in number.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Unit value realisation to each exporting country is as indicated in the statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(e) Information is not available.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) In view of what has been stated above, it has not been possible to make a comparison.

(i) Price is determined by the demand & supply factors in the international market. However, as a result of various steps taken by the Government to upgrade quality, productivity, and marketing, the average unit value realisation for FCV tobacco has improved from Rs. 31.49 per kg. in the year 1989-90 to Rs. 53.32 per kg. in 1991-92 (April-January).